

Islamic Civilization- Chapter 11

Ancient Times

- Arabs -> Bedouins
- Lived in tents
- Ate mutton, milk and dates
- Lived in tribes of large families
- Sheikh was the leader
 - A. Appointed by family heads
 - B. Council of elders advised
- Warfare was a constant part of life
 - A. Raids on Oases for water, supplies and territory
- Lived by the "eye for an eye" rule
- For entertainment- horse and camel races, poetry

Growth of Towns

- In the AD 500's settlements began to grow around oases and in fertile valleys
- Merchants founded trading towns
 - A. Most important town, **Makkah**, 50 miles from the Red Sea.
 - B. Major trading route. Caravans passed through constantly.
 - C. Cite of the largest shrine, the Kaaba. Inside were many statues of deities.

Changing Times

- Business ties replaced family ties
- Byzantine and Persian empires threatened to invade.
- Arabs shared language, but not the government.
- Byzantine, Persians, and Ethiopians became monotheistic
 - A. Many were dissatisfied with old beliefs and looked for another
 - B. Holy men, Hanifs, denounced idols and believed in one god
 - C. Did not want to follow Christianity or Judaism
 - D. Lead to the emergence of Islam

Muhammad and His Message

Life of Muhammad

- Born in 570 AD
- Orphaned and raised by an uncle
- Caravan leader as a teenager
- Worked for a widow, Khadija, and was put in charge of the caravan
 - A. Khadija proposed marriage when she was 40 and Muhammad was 25
 - B. Marriage and riches freed him to reflect on life
 - C. Fasted and prayed in a cave near his home
 - D. Did not like greed and idol worshipping

Muhammed's Revelation

- In 610 AD, he had a revelation. The angel Gabriel came to him
- Muhammad was told to preach the one god (the same as the Christian and Jewish God)
- All who believed would be equal
- God would punish the evil

Opposition

- Most people at Makkah rejected Muhammed's idea
- Merchants and priests feared business loss
- Muhammad and his followers were persecuted
 - A. Threats were made on his life
 - B. Set his followers to Yathrib and came later, in secret, in 622 AD
 - C. 622 AD is the first year in the Muslim calendar

Islamic Community

- Yathrib accepted Muhammad as God's prophet and ruler of the city
 - A. Became the religious center and was renamed Madinah
- Madinah compact in 624 AD set the religious state
 - A. All Muslims to be loyal to the state above the tribe
 - B. All areas of life and order placed under Muhammad
- Muhammad recorded divine law in the Quran

Acceptance of Islam

- Makkans invaded Yathrib
 - A. Muhammad fought them off
 - B. He marched on Makkah, defeated and converted them
 - C. Muslims destroyed idols and restored the temple (which was supposedly built by Abraham)
- Madinah was made the political capital
- Makkah was made the religious capital
- By 632 AD, the entire Arabian Peninsula was converted
- In 632 AD, Muhammad died.

Legacy and Beliefs

- Muhammad established beliefs, practices and a way of life
- The Quran
 - A. Gabriel spoke to Muhammad over 22 years
 - B. Not put into text until Muhammad died
 - C. Muhammad's successor, Abu Bakar, ordered teachings to be written down (took 20 years)

Values

- Basic moral values
 - A. Give to the poor and honor parents
 - B. Be kind. Murder and stealing from others condemned.
 - C. No gambling, alcohol, or pork
 - D. Outlines rules for government, marriage, and inheritance

Law

- Cannot be separated from religion
- Legal scholars organized moral principles into body of law
 - A. Shari 'ah, based on the Quran
 - B. Hadith, based on Muhammad's teachings

The Five Pillars of Islam

Faith

- Submit to God's will. The faithful were rewarded in heaven
- Muhammad was a prophet, not divine
- Muhammad was the last of several prophets (Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad)
- Arabs are the descendants of Abraham's sons. (Ishmael- Arabs. Isaac- Jews.)

Prayer

- 5 times a day, facing Makkah
- Prayer can be anywhere, but the mosque is the official place of worship
- Imam, a prayer leader. No official order of clergy

Alms

- Charity
- Wealthy to assist the poor

Fasting

- Ramadan, a month of fasting at day
 - A. Children, the sick, and pregnant women exempt

Pilgrimage (Hajj)

- Travel at least once to Makkah
- Traditionally occurs 2 months and 10 days after Ramadan

Spread of Islam

- After Muhammad's death, there was no real leader
- Prominent Muslims chose a new leader, called a caliph
- 1st four caliphs were chosen for life
 - A. All had known Muhammad
 - B. Father-in-law, Abu Bakar, 1st Caliph

Early Conquests

- Were made to spread Islam
- Gain wealth of Persians and Byzantine
- Better Land
- By 650 AD, all of Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and the Persian Empire had been invaded
- Religious duty to spread Islam. This was called the Jihad, "Holy Struggle"
- Muslims accepted non Muslim religions in their territory

Divisions in Islam

Sunni (90% of Population)

- Caliph leader was not the religious authority
- Any Muslim with approval could become one

Shiite (10% of Population)

- Caliph a direct descendent of Muhammad
- Stressed spiritual, not political leadership
- Suffering and martyrdom were signs of devotion
- Mainly found in Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon
- Have split into other factions

Islamic State

Umayyad Dynasty

- Founded by Mjawayah
- Moved capital to Damascus (Syria)
- Spread East to India, China, West Spain, and North Africa
 - A. Originally Sunni, but began to rule like kings
 - B. Arabic was the official language
 - C. Made first Arabic currency, built roads, and set postal routes
 - D. Made non Muslims pay a special tax
 - E. High taxes and low wages of a non Muslims and Shiites made for discontent

Abbasid Dynasty

- In 747 AD, non Arab Muslims and Anti-Ummayad Arabs began war
- The new caliph, Abul-'Abbas formed the Abbasid dynasty
- The new capital was moved to Baghdad in the 900's AD. There were 1.5 million people living there.
 - A. It was a trading crossroads of water routes in the Mediterranean Sea and East Asia.
- Reached height of empire under Caliph Harun al-Rashid from 786 AD to 809 AD
- Many different people and customs were allowed
- Harun wanted to keep equality between all
 - A. The Persians controlled the government
 - B. The Turks controlled the army
 - C. The Arabs controlled religion and law administration

Decline

- In the AD 800's, the Persian-Muslims broke away
 - A. Set up Samanid Dynasty in Bukhara
- Other cities broke away and became city-states
- All had lucrative caravan trade
- By the AD 1000's, Abbasid rule extended just to the area around Baghdad
- The Seljuk Turks took over the empire, then the Mongols invaded.
 - A. In 1258 AD and assault killed 50,000 people and the last Abbasid Caliph

Daily Life and Culture

Role of Women

- Men are responsible for women
- Social position depended on the men in their lives
- Could own their own property and divorcees have a right to take property back
- Could run businesses
- Could inherit property
- It was forbidden to kill females and infants
- Polygamy was limited to 4 wives
- Could hold political office
- Could be educated

Role of Men

- Soldiers, government, religious teachers
- Owned businesses, traded goods and farmed the land
- For leisure, they played chess, composed poetry, and went to public baths
- Were educated to read and write
 - A. The poor did not have to pay for schooling, but the rich did. However, the rich got a more extensive education for paying.
 - B. Schools taught theology. These schools were called "Madrasas"

City and Country Life

- Most of the population lived in rural areas, or in the desert
- Leadership was located in the cities
- Cities were comprised of narrow streets covered with cloth for sun protection
 - A. There were distinct districts for businesses and residences
 - B. Buildings were packed close together
 - C. Homes were built around courtyards with fountains to protect from the heat
 - D. The interior was sparse, but had nice carpets and small art objects
 - E. Most people used cushions and pillows to sit on
 - F. Religious and government buildings were at the center of the city
 - G. Had market places, called bazaars, where small and large scale trade was conducted

Islamic Achievements

- Arabic, like Greek and Latin, allowed all to communicate
- The House of Wisdom was founded in Baghdad in 830 AD
 - A. Research center
 - B. Translated foreign texts
 - C. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scholars met and spoke there
 - D. Math and science experiments were conducted
- Algebra and Trigonometry were invented
- Pumps, fountains, and buildings all had practical applications and were based on science and math

- The House of Wisdom had an observatory
 - A. Models of the sky and the universe were made
 - B. Proved that the moon affects the earth
 - C. improved the astrolabe- an instrument for measuring the position of stars and planets at a certain time
 - D. Made navigation easier
 - E. Proved that the earth was round and measured it accurately
 - F. Produced maps

Chemistry and Medicine

- Alchemy, a primitive chemistry, was studied
- The classification system (animal, mineral, or vegetable) was made
- Medical handbooks were written
- Optics, light, and sight were studied

Art and Literature

- No icons were permitted
- Calligraphy was the average form of writing
- Walls were decorated with Quran passages
- Many homes had gardens
- Poetry was very popular
- Prose epics were also widely appreciated
- Had more libraries than any other culture

Philosophy and History

- Translated writings to Greek, for comparison.
- Defended and debated other religious works
- Wrote Chronicles (chronological order of history)
 - A. Wrote multi-volume histories
- Also wrote history as connected to famous people